DEVELOPING EDUCATION
Training and employment programs for people experiencing homelessness should consider exacerbating factors:

- lack of a permanent address
- lack of access to bathing and nutritional resources
- physical and mental health concerns
- challenges with addictions

Many LGBTQ2S youth could benefit from inclusive skills-based training such as job readiness, money management, cooking, etc.

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION LEVELS

77% 57-65% 65%
HOMELESS YOUTH ARE UNEMPLOYED HOMELESS YOUTH DROP OUT OF SCHOOL FAIL TO FINISH HIGH SCHOOL

HOMELESS YOUTH MAY ENGAGE IN “INFORMAL” ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, QUASI-LEGAL ACTIVITIES OR CRIMINAL ACTS:

- squeegeeing
- sex work
- ‘binning’
- panhandling
- drug dealing

Securing employment can be especially difficult for LGBTQ2S youth who are street-involved or homeless, due to ageism, homophobia, transphobia, racism, etc.

LGBTQ2S youth may experience limited access to employment and housing, due to social exclusion.

TRANS YOUTH EXPERIENCE ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES WHEN TRYING TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT:

NO ACCESS
Unable to safely access workplace restroom facilities on the basis of gender identity.

TRANSPHOBIA
makes it difficult, if not impossible, to successfully perform one’s job.

IDENTIFICATION
Legal name and ID may not match gender expression, name or pronouns.

WHAT CAN SHELTERS AND SUPPORT SERVICES DO TO HELP:

TRAIN STAFF
Ensure that all frontline staff receive LGBTQ2S cultural competency training.

BE INCLUSIVE
Ensure that shelters are LGBTQ2S safe, affirming, and inclusive.

ASSIST CHANGES
Assist trans youth with legal name and sex marker changes if desired.

For homeless youth who often have no phone, permanent address, appropriate clothes or resumes, job hunting can prove frustrating and futile. Many homeless youth have no experience or role models to help them navigate the workplace or meet the demands of time management and structure.


**LACK OF HOPE**
Homeless youth have been let down, heartbroken and disappointed by many of the adults in their lives. This creates a sense of hopelessness in youth. Without the support and nurturing of caring adults, they find it hard to believe that life can be more rewarding.

**LIMITED COMPUTER AND PHONE ACCESS**
Most employers want to connect via email, telephone and social networks. Access to a computer, printer, and phone are vital for resume writing, and job searching.

**CHALLENGING MARKET**
Due to the changes in the economy over the last few years, youth unemployment is at 14.7%—over twice the overall rate. Youth are at an even greater disadvantage as they compete with experienced and educated adults for entry level positions. It can be especially difficult for LGBTQ2S youth who are homeless, due to homophobia, transphobia, racism.

**STATISTIC**
14.7% of youth are unemployed

Written by Dr. Alex Abramovich (2016)